

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 7, and 8-10 remain in this application.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 have been canceled.

Claims 3, 7, and 8-10 have been amended.

The indicating that Claims 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter has been noted. Both Claims 9 and 10 have now been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, it is now believed that these claims are in condition for formal allowance.

In an effort to decrease the number of issues involved with this application, the claims have been reduced in number with Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 being canceled. Claims 3 and 7 have now been rewritten in independent form with these claims also including additional written in changes.

Claim 3, as it was originally submitted, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Adams. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 3, as now amended, clearly defines that the grab ring has a cylindrical main body, this cylindrical main body being mounted within the annular concavity. In Adams, the grab ring is defined by the locking members 23 which are embeddingly mounted within a locking ring 9. Within Claim 3 of the present invention, applicant has defined that the grab ring is mounted within an annular concavity of a grab ring housing. The equivalent structure within Adams would be that the biting members 23 are located in conjunction with a cavity formed in the locking ring 9. The equivalent grab ring of Adams does not have a cylindrical main body which is

mounted within an annular concavity as defined within independent Claim 3 of the present application. Additionally, Claim 3 defines that this annular concavity has a forward wall which is located at an acute angle that is less than the acute angle of the biting members prior to the withdrawing movement of the pipe section. The members 23 of Adams are always mounted at precisely the same angle of the concavity because it is snugly mounted within the concavity of Adams. The Examiner's attention is to be called to the fact that the annular concavity is formed within the grab ring housing with the locking ring 9 of Adams comprising that grab ring housing not the housing 8 within which the locking ring 9 is mounted.

Claims 7, was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the reference to Adams as well as under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the reference to Ceriani. The equivalent member 4 of Ceriani which comprises the grab ring housing does not have a forward surface which is beveled. Therefore, it is believed that Claim 7 defines structure different from that of Ceriani. In addition, the equivalent structure of Adams, which is the locking ring 9, does not have a forward surface that is annular and beveled and spaced from the grab ring. The cavity within which the biting members are embedded connect directly with the biting members and therefore there is no forward surface that is beveled and spaced from the grab ring.

Claim 8, which depends from Claim 7, has further defined that the forward surface connects with an annular beveled surface formed on a retaining cap which functions to close the internal chamber. The flange 18 of Ceriani is defined by the Examiner as being

equivalent to applicant's retaining cap. The inwardly turned flange 18 of Ceriani does not have an annular beveled surface which closes the internal chamber. As can be readily seen in Ceriani, there is a gap between flange 18 and member 8 so the internal chamber is not closed by the flange 18.

Claim 8 has also been rejected over the reference to Adams on the basis that there is an annular beveled surface defined by end flange 17. Also the end flange 17 of Adams does not close the internal chamber as it can be clearly seen that there is a gap (Figure 4) in Adams which would be open to the equivalent of the applicant's internal chamber.

The applying of the reference to Nakazumi has been noted. However, Nakazumi is no longer believed to be in issue since Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have now been canceled.

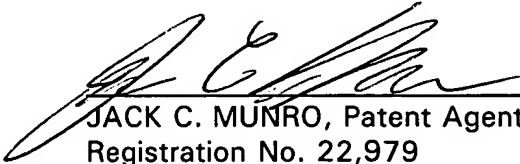
The citing of the additional references of record has been noted.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and arguments presented herein, it is believed that the rewritten Claims 3, 7 and 8 now clearly define allowable subject matter along with the previously allowed Claims 9 and 10. In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and arguments presented herein, it is believed that the claims as now rewritten clearly define patentable subject matter. It is courteously requested that this application be reconsidered, such reconsideration being favorable resulting in passing of this application to issue.

Amendment to PUSH-PULL PIPE COUPLING
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Page 11 of 11

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which
may be required, or credit any overpayment to account No. 13-4899.

Respectfully submitted,



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